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## Digital signature scheme with matrix-based approach

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### ABSTRACT

The use of digital signatures in various electronic services such as e-transactions, e-commerce, and e-learning is necessary for today's humans. All types of these services are highly dependent on the privacy, integrity, and authenticity between the sender and recipient of the data. Mathematically, many digital signature schemes such as Rivest Shamir Adleman (RSA), Elgamal, and Elliptic Curve Cryptography (ECC) are made using the concept of integer multiplication. Previous research introduced the RSA signature with a square matrix that changes data as a matrix instead of integers. The security of the scheme depends on the matrix with order  $h$ . The larger  $h$  the digit chosen, the better the level of protection. This modification makes this digital signature system more secure than systems using integers because the randomization process is more random and complicated. However, the operating system involves matrix exponentiation, requiring a lot of computing time and space. In this study, researchers changed the matrix exponentiation to ordinary matrix multiplication. The advantage is that the proposed algorithm has a faster computing speed because it only involves ordinary matrix multiplication. In the first step, the researcher forms several rectangular matrices as random variables for the key generation algorithm. Next, the researcher models the signing and signature verification algorithms. After that, the researcher codes in Mathematica and simulates the proposed signature scheme. In the final stage, the researcher performs a mathematical attack test analysis on the algorithm. The results show that the proposed scheme can generate keys and sign and verify signatures well. In addition, the proposed scheme system has also been tested for possible mathematical attacks.

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### INTRODUCTION

Various electronic services, such as e-transactions, e-commerce, and e-learning, are currently used to meet human needs ranging from business to

personal activities. All of these types of services are highly dependent on aspects of privacy, integrity, and authenticity of data between the sender and recipient. For this reason, using digital signatures

plays an essential role in ensuring the integrity of data transactions.

Digital signature schemes such as the Rivest Shamir Adleman (RSA) algorithm (Anshori, Dodu, & Wedananta, 2019), Elgamal (Ismail & Misro, 2022; Lalem, Laouid, Kara, Al-Khalidi, & Eleyan, 2023) and Elliptic Curve Cryptography (ECC) (Saepulrohman & Negara, 2021) use integer keys and involve integer powers. Some modifications of RSA and ElGamal with matrices (Gupta & Sanghi, 2021; Maxrizal & Irawadi, 2019; Raj & Sridhar, 2021) or variations of ElGamal (Fuchsbauer, Plouviez, & Seurin, 2020; Qin & Zhang, 2023; Saputra & Purnomo, 2018) can be used as relatively efficient and secure digital signature schemes. Researchers also provide comprehensive comparative studies on digital signatures of several RSA and Elgamal schemes (Swain, Pradhan, & Moharana, 2022).

Research by Gupta & Sanghi (2021) shows a modification of the RSA signature with the concept of a square matrix  $n \times n$ . The goal is to change the data to a matrix instead of integers to reduce the key size. The researcher proposed modifying the RSA digital signature scheme using a matrix with the order of  $h$  in the research. The larger the digit chosen of  $h$ , the better the level of security, namely randomization for the data matrix  $M^h$ . Note that this modification makes this digital signature system more secure than the system using integers because the randomization process is more random

and complicated. This means that the operating system involves the matrix's power over integers, requiring a lot of computing time and space.

This study proposes an improvement to the study by Gupta & Sanghi (2021) by using ordinary matrices without having to use matrix exponentiation. The advantage is that the proposed algorithm has a faster computing speed because it only involves ordinary matrix multiplication. This is different from the study by Gupta & Sanghi (2021), which uses matrix exponentiation. Because both use the matrix concept, the proposed system maintains the same level of data security as the previous study.

## METHOD

This research will modify the RSA digital signature system based on the matrix in previous research. If research by Gupta & Sanghi (2021) uses matrix exponentiation, then the proposed system only uses ordinary matrix multiplication. In the first step, the researcher will form several rectangular matrices as random variables for the key generation algorithm. Next, the signing and signature verification algorithms will be modeled. After that, the researcher will code in Mathematica and simulate the proposed signature scheme. To ensure the security of the scheme, the researcher will conduct a mathematical attack test analysis on the algorithm. The research flowchart of this study can be seen in Figure 1.

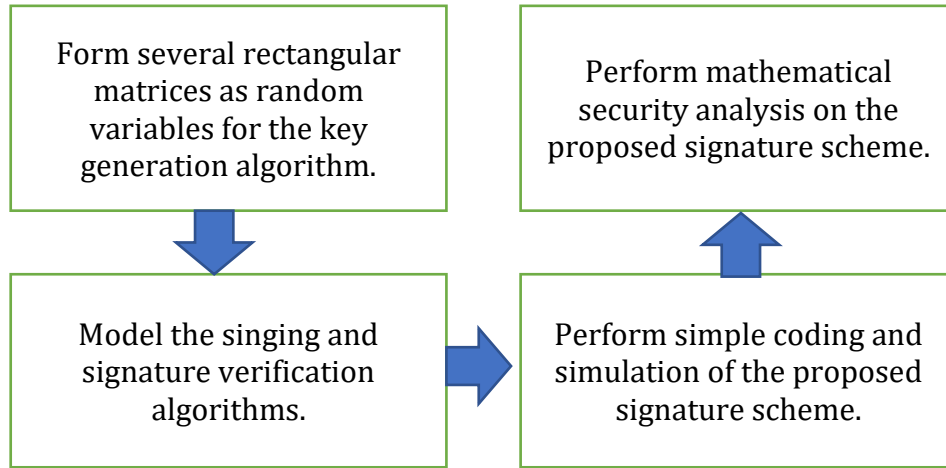


Figure 1. Research Flowchart

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Background to the Development of the Proposed Signature Scheme

Let us consider a message matrix  $M$  and a nonsingular matrix  $A$ . Note that  $M_{r \times n} = M_{r \times n} (A_{n \times n})^{-1} A_{n \times n}$  holds. Next, we form  $A_{n \times n} = B_{n \times m} C_{m \times n}$ . If  $m > n > r$ , then

$$M_{r \times n} = M_{r \times n} (A_{n \times n})^{-1} A_{n \times n}$$

$$M_{r \times n} = M_{r \times n} (A_{n \times n})^{-1} B_{n \times m} C_{m \times n}$$

$$M_{r \times n} = M_{r \times n} \left[ (A_{n \times n})^{-1} B_{n \times m} \right] C_{m \times n}$$

From the last equation we assume  $T_{r \times m} = M_{r \times n} \left[ (A_{n \times n})^{-1} B_{n \times m} \right]$  to obtain  $M_{r \times n} = T_{r \times m} C_{m \times n}$ .

### Proposed Digital Signature Scheme

#### a. Key Generation Algorithm

The sender chooses an arbitrary matrix  $B_{n \times m}, C_{m \times n}$ , where  $m > n$  is a rectangular (singular matrix) matrix, and computes  $A_{n \times n} = B_{n \times m} C_{m \times n}$ .

Next, the sender computes  $(A_{n \times n})^{-1}$ . Repeat the first step if it is not found. If  $(A_{n \times n})^{-1}$  exists, the sender calculates the private key  $E_{n \times m} = (A_{n \times n})^{-1} B_{n \times m}$  and prepares the public key  $C_{m \times n}$ .

#### b. Signatory

Suppose the sender of a message has a message  $M_{r \times n}$ . The sender of the message signs the message by computing  $T_{r \times m} = M_{r \times n} E_{n \times m}$ .

#### c. Signature Verification

The recipient verifies the message's authenticity by computing  $M_{r \times n} = T_{r \times m} C_{m \times n}$ , where  $C_{m \times n}$  is the public key.

We can show that signature verification can work well, namely,

$$T_{r \times m} C_{m \times n} = M_{r \times n} E_{n \times m} C_{m \times n}$$

$$= M_{r \times n} (A_{n \times n})^{-1} B_{n \times m} C_{m \times n}$$

$$= M_{r \times n} (A_{n \times n})^{-1} A_{n \times n}$$

$$= M_{r \times n}$$

### A Toy Example

The sender has a message "TAX". Suppose the sender and receiver agree to use the terms  $A = 01, B = 02, K, Z = 0$ . The sender uses the private key of the matrix  $2 \times 2$ . The message becomes "TAX" and is changed to "20-01-24". A matrix of size  $1 \times 2$  is formed, namely  $M_{1 \times 2} = [200 \ 124]$ , the term  $r < n$ . In this example, any prime modulo  $p = 1231$  is chosen.

#### a. Key Generation Algorithm

The message's sender chooses any matrix  $B_{2 \times 3} = \begin{bmatrix} 11 & 101 & 512 \\ 33 & 201 & 701 \end{bmatrix}$ ,

$$C_{3 \times 2} = \begin{bmatrix} 311 & 17 \\ 11 & 122 \\ 101 & 1111 \end{bmatrix}. \text{ The sender computes}$$

$$A_{2 \times 2} = B_{2 \times 3} C_{3 \times 2} = \begin{bmatrix} 849 & 309 \\ 798 & 51 \end{bmatrix} \text{ mod } 1231.$$

Note that

$$(A_{2 \times 2})^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 857 & 1035 \\ 928 & 1160 \end{bmatrix} \text{ mod } 1231 \text{ exists, so}$$

the message sender computes the private

$$\text{key } E_{2 \times 3} = \begin{bmatrix} 497 & 383 & 1024 \\ 479 & 673 & 670 \end{bmatrix} \text{ mod } 1231 \text{ and}$$

$$\text{the public key } C_{3 \times 2} = \begin{bmatrix} 311 & 17 \\ 11 & 122 \\ 101 & 1111 \end{bmatrix}.$$

### b. Signatory

Suppose the sender of a message has a message  $M_{1 \times 2} = [200 \ 124]$ . The sender of the message signs the message by computing

$$T_{1 \times 3} = [1228 \ 22 \ 1057] \text{ mod } 1231.$$

### c. Signature Verification

The message's recipient verifies its authenticity by computing  $M_{1 \times 2} = T_{1 \times 3} C_{3 \times 2} = [200 \ 124]$ , where  $C_{m \times n}$  is the public key. Thus, the message is unchanged. The recipient can translate the message back to "20-01-24" or "TAX".

The following is a display of the algorithm using Mathematica software.

```
In[21]:= B = {{11, 101, 512}, {33, 201, 701}}; MatrixForm[B]
Out[21]/MatrixForm=


|    |     |     |
|----|-----|-----|
| 11 | 101 | 512 |
| 33 | 201 | 701 |


Insert Space Tab Clipping Link Attach File Scanner Record Rec
In[22]:= C1 = {{311, 17}, {11, 122}, {101, 1111}}; MatrixForm[C1]
Out[22]/MatrixForm=


|     |      |
|-----|------|
| 311 | 17   |
| 11  | 122  |
| 101 | 1111 |


In[23]:= A = Mod[B.C1, p]; MatrixForm[A]
Out[23]/MatrixForm=


|     |     |
|-----|-----|
| 849 | 309 |
| 798 | 51  |


In[24]:= A1 = Det[A]
Out[24]= -203283
In[25]:= A2 = Inverse[A]; MatrixForm[A2]
Out[25]/MatrixForm=


|                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| $-\frac{17}{67761}$ | $\frac{103}{67761}$  |
| $\frac{266}{67761}$ | $-\frac{282}{67761}$ |


In[26]:= A3 = PowerMod[A1, -1, p]
Out[26]= 403
In[27]:= A4 = Mod[A1 * A2 * A3, p]; MatrixForm[A4]
Out[27]/MatrixForm=


|     |      |
|-----|------|
| 857 | 1035 |
| 928 | 1160 |


In[29]:= E1 = Mod[A4.B, p]; MatrixForm[E1]
Out[29]/MatrixForm=


|     |     |      |
|-----|-----|------|
| 497 | 383 | 1024 |
| 479 | 673 | 670  |


```

Figure 2. Key Generation Simulation in Mathematica

Next, the signing process is continued by the following algorithm.

```
In[30]:= M = {{200, 124}}; MatrixForm[M]
Out[30]/MatrixForm=
( 200 124 )

In[31]:= T = Mod[M.E1, p]; MatrixForm[T]
Out[31]/MatrixForm=
( 1228 22 1057 )
```

Figure 3. Signatory in Mathematica

At the end, the message recipient will verify the signature so that the recipient is sure of the message's authenticity.

```
In[32]:= M2 = Mod[T.C1, p]; MatrixForm[M2]
Out[32]/MatrixForm=
( 200 124 )
```

Figure 4. Signature Verification in Mathematica

### Mathematical Analysis of Scheme Security

#### a. Key generation Algorithm

The sender generates a private key  $E_{n \times m} = (A_{n \times n})^{-1} B_{n \times m}$  and a public key  $C_{m \times n}$ . In this condition, the matrix  $E, A, B$  can only be brute-forced. This condition is safe because extra effort is required to guess any matrix  $E, A, B$  correctly.

#### b. Signatory

In the signing phase, the sender sends a message  $M_{r \times n}$ . The sender signs the message by calculating  $T_{r \times m} = M_{r \times n} E_{n \times m}$ . It is clear that  $M_{r \times n}$  and  $T_{r \times m}$  are not secret (because they will be sent to the message's recipient), so the eavesdropper can do  $E_{n \times m} = (M_{r \times n})^{-1} T_{r \times m}$  to steal the private key. But this condition is impossible because  $(M_{r \times n})^{-1}$  does not exist ( $M_{r \times n}$ , with  $r < n$ , is a singular rectangular matrix that does not have an inverse).

Furthermore, the hacker's  $T_{r \times m} = M_{r \times n} E_{n \times m}$  equation can be tried to be tapped by multiplying any matrix  $K_{n \times r}$  from the left side of  $M$ , namely

$$K_{n \times r} T_{r \times m} = K_{n \times r} M_{r \times n} E_{n \times m}$$

$$(KT)_{n \times m} = (KM)_{n \times n} E_{n \times m}$$

The goal is to form a square matrix  $(KM)_{n \times n}$  so that  $(KM)_{n \times n}^{-1} (KT)_{n \times m} = E_{n \times m}$  applies.

The hacker still wants to steal the private key, but this condition is impossible because  $(KM)_{n \times n}^{-1}$  does not exist. This is supported by mathematical theory (algebra) that  $K_{n \times r} M_{r \times n}$  is a singular matrix (a matrix that does not have an inverse/singular matrix) because of the condition  $r < u$  (Maxrizal & Irawadi, 2020).

Therefore, during the signing phase, the private key  $E$  is impervious to mathematical attacks. This is why the size of the message matrix  $M$  is predetermined, preventing this type of

attack by hackers. The key matrix is only susceptible to brute force attacks.

### c. Signature Verification

In the signature verification phase, all variables are not confidential. In this condition, it is not profitable for hackers to perform brute force attacks.

### Comparison with Previous Scheme

In this study, we compare the proposed scheme with the previous scheme (Gupta & Sanghi, 2021) in terms of mathematical theory.

**Table 1.** Comparison with Previous Scheme

No.	Criteria being Compared	Previous Schemes	Proposed Scheme
1.	Key generation process	Matrix	Matrix
2.	Key generator	Generated from the multiplication of prime numbers $n = pq$ .	Any $s$
3.	Private key form	Integer	Matrix
4.	Signature computation speed	Involves raising integers to powers modulo $n$ of relatively large magnitude.	Involves ordinary matrix multiplication
5.	Possible brute force attack on private key	$n_1$ possibility	$E_{n \times m}$ on mod $n_1$ with $m > n$ then there are $T n_1^{nm}$ possibilities

The above checks are carried out on the variables involved in the key formation, signing, and signature verification processes.

### CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

This study proposes a digital signature scheme using the matrix concept. The results show that the proposed scheme can generate keys and sign and verify signatures well. In addition, the proposed scheme system has also been tested for possible mathematical attacks.

Further research can examine the algorithm's performance time on key generation, signature, and signature verification. In addition, further research can also see attacks from the quantum attack algorithm's side.

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